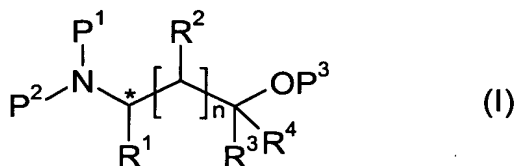


What is Claimed is:

10. (New) A process for the hydrogenation of an aromatic compound, wherein said aromatic compound is an aliphatic-substituted aromatic or a heteroaromatic compound having an asymmetrical carbon atom, comprising hydrogenating said aromatic compound in the presence of a platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst.
11. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein said aromatic compound is an amino acid or an aromatic-substituted amino alcohol.
12. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein the ratio of platinum to rhodium in said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is between 20:1 and 1:1 (w/w).
13. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is used in a quantity of 0.1 to 20 wt%, relative to the compound undergoing hydrogenation.
14. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is adsorbed on a support.
15. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein said hydrogenation is performed in the presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of: water; an alcohol; an ether; and mixtures thereof.
16. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein said hydrogenation is performed under hydrogen pressures of between 1 and 100 bar.

17. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein said hydrogenation is performed at a temperature of 10°C to 150°C.
- 5 18. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein:
- a) said aromatic compound is an amino acid or an aromatic-substituted amino alcohol;
  - b) the ratio of platinum to rhodium in said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is between 20:1 and 1:1 (w/w);
  - c) said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is used in a quantity of 0.1 to 20 wt%, relative to the compound undergoing hydrogenation;
  - d) said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is adsorbed on a support;
  - e) said hydrogenation is performed in the presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of: water; an alcohol; an ether; and mixtures thereof;
  - f) said hydrogenation is performed under a hydrogen pressure of between 1 and 100 bar; and
  - g) said hydrogenation is performed at a temperature of 10°C to 150°C.
- 25 19. (New) A process for the hydrogenation of the aromatic nucleus of a compound, comprising hydrogenating said compound in the presence of a platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst, wherein said compound has the general formula (I):



wherein

n can be 0, 1, 2

R<sup>1</sup> represents unsubstituted or substituted (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>) aryl, (C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>19</sub>) aralkyl, ((C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>) alkyl)<sub>1-3</sub> (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>) aralkyl ((C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>) alkyl)<sub>1-3</sub> (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>) aryl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>) heteroaryl, (C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>19</sub>) heteroaralkyl, ((C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>) alkyl)<sub>1-3</sub> (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>) heteroaryl,

R<sup>2</sup> denotes H, OH, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>) alkyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>) alkoxyalkyl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>) aryl, (C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>19</sub>) aralkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>) heteroaryl, (C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>19</sub>) heteroaralkyl, ((C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>) alkyl)<sub>1-3</sub> (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>) aryl, ((C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)

alkyl)<sub>1-3</sub> (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>) heteroaryl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>) cycloalkyl, ((C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>) alkyl)<sub>1-3</sub> (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>) cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>) cycloalkyl (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>) alkyl;

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> together denote an =O function or H or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>) alkyl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>) aryl,

P<sup>1</sup> and P<sup>2</sup> mutually independently stand for hydrogen or an amino protective group or together stand for a bifunctional amino protective group,

P<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen or a hydroxyl protective group or carboxyl protective group and the C atom marked with \* is an asymmetrical C atom.

20. (New) The process of claim 19, wherein said compound is an aromatic amino acid or an aromatic-substituted amino alcohol.

21. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein the ratio of platinum to rhodium in said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is between 20:1 and 1:1 (w/w).

22. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is used in a quantity

of 0.1 to 20 wt%, relative to the compound undergoing hydrogenation.

23. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is adsorbed on a support.
24. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein said hydrogenation is performed in the presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of: water; an alcohol; an ether; and mixtures thereof.
25. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein said hydrogenation is performed under hydrogen pressures of between 1 and 100 bar.
26. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein said hydrogenation is performed at a temperature of 10°C to 150°C.
27. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein:
- a) said aromatic compound is an amino acid or aromatic-substituted amino alcohol;
  - b) the ratio of platinum to rhodium in said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is between 20:1 and 1:1 (w/w);
  - c) said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is used in a quantity of 0.1 to 20 wt%, relative to the compound undergoing hydrogenation;
  - d) said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is adsorbed on a support;
  - e) said hydrogenation is performed in the presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of: water; and an alcohol;

- f) said hydrogenation is performed under a hydrogen pressure of between 1 and 100 bar; and
- g) said hydrogenation is performed at a temperature of 10°C to 150°C.